

The Rubbish RESOURCE



A Publication of the N.H. Department of Environmental Services Waste Management Division

Spring 2001

FREDERICK J. WALLACE IS NUMBER 2000!



The DES Solid Waste Operator Training and Certification Program trained (and certified) more than 160 operators on March 14-15, 2001. The addition of this audience brought the total number of operators that have come through the program to over 2100! In order to commemorate the occasion, Frederick J. Wallace was identified as the 2000th operator to have taken the training course. Mr. Wallace, pictured above (center) with Dr. Philip O'Brien, Director of the Waste Management Division (right) and Pat Hannon, Program Coordinator, Solid Waste Operator Training and Certification Program (left), has worked for the Town of Salem since 1996. In

addition to solid waste management responsibilities, Mr. Wallace's duties currently involve Salem's Water Department. He holds a Level IV Solid Waste Facility Operator/Manager Certification, as well as a Water Works Grade I Distribution License. DES administers both certification programs. As the 2000th certified solid waste operator, Mr. Wallace will receive a year's supply of yogurt donated by Stonyfield Farm Yogurt, Londonderry, NH; a pair of "Pro-Series" steel-toe work boots, tee shirt and hat courtesy of The Timberland Co., Stratham, NH; a pair of work gloves provided by the Northeast Resource Recovery Association, and a DES tote bag.

The Operator Training Program has been providing educational opportunities to operators for over a decade. By providing attendees with the most current information on the solid waste industry and management techniques, public health and the environment are protected, and worker safety is improved. For more information on the operator training program, or to view our extensive course listing, call Pat Hannon at 271-1749 or visit our website at www.des.state.nh.us/pcas.

WEST NILE VIRUS

The recent movement of the West Nile Virus into New Hampshire has raised several health questions of concern to the operators of solid waste facilities.

What is the West Nile Virus?

The West Nile Virus is found in a virus group that causes encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain. The common household mosquito spreads the virus when it feeds on a blood meal from an infected bird and later bites another bird, human, or horse. Presently, there is no vaccine to protect against the virus.

What are the symptoms?

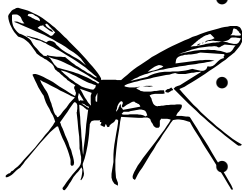
Symptoms can be minor and include fever, headache, body aches, sometimes a skin rash, and swollen lymph glands. However, in elderly people and those with a weakened immune system, the symptoms can be severe, and can lead to death.

What can be done to reduce the number of mosquitoes?

Since standing water is a breeding area for mosquitoes, there are several activities at a solid

waste facility that can be undertaken by the operator to minimize the mosquito population:

- Eliminate shallow standing water, such as puddles around the site;
- Remove all tires or place them under cover;
- Remove or cover all open containers on site; and
- Clean out all clogged roof gutters.



How can you protect yourself from mosquito bites?

- Make sure all doors and windows have tight-fitting screens;
- Avoid outdoor activities during dusk to dawn;
- Wear long sleeve shirts and pants; and
- Use an effective mosquito repellent.

To learn more about the West Nile Virus in New Hampshire, contact the NH Department of Health and Human Services at 1-866-273-6453 (a toll-free number), or visit their web page at www.dhhs.state.nh.us.

COMPOSTING IS HOT IN NH



In 1993, the New Hampshire Legislature passed a leaf and yard waste ban. Leaves, grass clippings, brush, etc. were no longer allowed to be disposed of in landfills or incinerators. These materials were taken out of NH Solid Waste Rules because they were considered a resource, and not a waste.

Most of NH’s communities have taken advantage of this ban by establishing their own leaf and yard waste compost piles. These local compost piles diverted 20,269 tons of leaf and yard waste in 1999. The entire state of NH composted more than 36,000 tons that year, with the difference coming from commercial sources. Composted leaf and yard waste makes up 3% of NH’s waste.

What is missing from this brief overview is *food waste*. Currently, there are only a few facilities permitted to compost food waste, including PK’s Compost Facility in Nashua, New England Organics (formerly R.O.T.) in Hanover and the UNH Cooperative Services at Parsell Farm in Rochester. Unfortunately, these facilities are limited as to the amount and manner in which they can compost food waste.

These limitations have not slowed progress. A number of individuals, including regulators, planners, organic waste producers, compost producers and compost users that are passionate about composting, have established the New Hampshire Composting Association. This group’s purpose is to address many issues surrounding

composting. The New Hampshire Compost Association (NHCA) seeks to bring together those interested in the compost process, its products and the appropriate use of those products, with the goal of reducing the waste stream and ensuring the sustainability of natural resources. The NHCA will accomplish this through educating the public, end-users and waste generators; promoting research; and encouraging composting and the use of compost products.

In addition to the three facilities listed above, three NH communities have expressed interest in accepting food waste at their facility and incorporating it into their leaf and yard waste piles. The towns are seeking to modify their existing Solid Waste Permit to manage these wastes.

Seacoast Farms, a commercial site that composts leaf and yard waste, and whose customers include the City of Manchester, is the first to use the Permit By Notification (PBN) for Small Food Waste Composters. This PBN will allow Seacoast Farms to accept food waste quantities equal to 20% of the yard waste accepted at the facility.

The Planning and Community Assistance Section at DES is working to increase composting throughout NH. Our current compost projects include: density mapping, onsite workshops, technical assistance and educational sessions during Operator Training and the Solid Waste Conference.

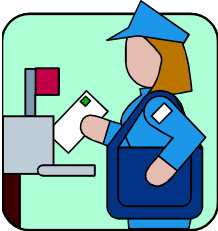
Questions regarding composting in NH can be directed to Marc Morgan, Recycling Coordinator, 271-3712.

Join the NH Recycling List Serve Today!

The listserve connects nearly 100 NH recyclers through email and allows them to share ideas and cooperatively solve problems. Contact the Governor’s Recycling Program at 271-1098 or by email at recycle@osp.state.nh.us to join this free service.

REMINDER

SOLID WASTE ANNUAL FACILITY REPORTS WERE DUE ON MARCH 31, 2001!
Call DES (271-1749) to receive forms or with questions or go to our website at www.des.state.nh.us/pcas for forms and other solid waste information.



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